



Friday
June 17, 2011

Weekly Views

A story about Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's (WVCF) community volunteers helping offenders prepare for re-entry into society has been nominated for an Emmy! "Faith Driven" produced by WTHI TV photojournalist Ryan Ward is in the Human Interest News category Emmy hunt, competing in the Emmy Ohio Valley chapter. The winner will be announced July 30, in Louisville, Kentucky. Good luck Ryan!

The Noble County Purdue Master Gardeners were awarded the State's 2011 Purdue Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award for the Master Gardeners program at Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility. Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility teamed up with Noble County Purdue Master Gardeners in 2010 to conduct its first Master Gardener program at the facility. Since then, 15 offenders have graduated from the program. Together with Noble County Master Gardeners, a garden was planted on the grounds of the facility with all produce donated to the local food bank.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility was recognized as a leader of Indiana prisons in sustainability at a Corrections National Sustainability Symposium presented by Greenprisons.org in Indianapolis, IN. The symposium highlighted new initiatives in sustainable corrections and its fiscal impact. At the conclusion of the symposium, Commissioner Lemmon, Superintendent Stanley Knight and over 70 attendees toured PCF's compost and recycling areas, the Shifting Gears program, the bio-mass boiler and the wind turbine.

The Deep River Grinders from Hobart, IN visited the Indiana State Prison to play Baseball according to the rules of 1858. The entire Grinders team, umpire, and tally keeper were all in period attire. The game from 1858 is similar to the game played today, with some notable differences. Players do not wear gloves or other protective equipment. There is also no sliding, leading off, bunting or stealing of bases.

Forty Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students attended "Midnight Madness." Students that were conduct free for 30 days and did not have any outstanding sanctions were treated to one pound hotdogs with all the fixings, chips, brownie bites, lemonade, a movie, dancing, playing pool and basket ball.

The Venture Scouts unit at Pendleton Juvenile participated in a campout where students earned badges for Astronomy. They also had a Rain Gutter Regatta, decorated their Derby cars and roasted hot dogs & marshmallows.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) celebrated the graduation of 141 TC offenders. The ceremony was quite an honor for the graduates, who celebrated with invited guests and staff members of the program. The offenders selected the phrase, "Brand New Men with the World in their Grasps!" as their send off message as they re-enter society. Superintendent Levenhagen expressed appreciation to the TC team, congratulated the offender graduates and asked their families to support and encourage these "new men." The ceremony ended with cake and punch, presented by the students from the facility's Culinary Arts program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Sergeant Michael Caylor was honored during a pinning ceremony conducted in the Superintendent's Office in recognition of his promotion to the position of Correctional Lieutenant. Congratulations Lieutenant Caylor and good luck in your new supervisory role!

Plainfield Correctional Facility (PCF) hosted a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) for seven offenders and their spouses. The workshop provided the couples with education and practical strategies to enhance their relationship. It was facilitated by trained staff from IYC as well as Central Office and Wabash Valley. PREP is built on research in the area of couples relationships, psychology, sociology, and education. It is presented throughout the world. The workshop was arranged and moderated by Amy Fenn, PCF case manager.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation ceremony for eight students. Since the program's inception in December 2005, 271 students have graduated.

WVCF marked Graduation Day for 157 GED, vocational and college graduates. The Caps and Gown Ceremony included proud family members, witnessing an important milestone in the lives of their loved ones. "A degree, certificate or diploma in hand will enhance employment chances and a successful new beginning, post incarceration," said Superintendent Dick Brown.

A commencement ceremony was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) for 240 academic and vocational graduates. Keynote speaker, IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon addressed the graduates and visitors, "I encourage you not to become complacent with today's accomplishment, but to continue to strive for self improvement." Commissioner Lemmon thanked PCF staff for their dedication and commitment to education.

The offender population at the Correctional Industrial Facility enjoyed an evening of music during the facility's Praise Team concert. Many of the volunteers who assist in worship were invited to attend along with staff.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Auxiliary Committee had a facility Garage Sale. Staff donated the items that were sold. The sale raised over \$500. The committee will utilize the money for the annual PNJCF Community Day. All unsold items were donated to Alternatives women's shelter in Anderson, IN.